

The Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 9, line 28 and ending on page 9, line 31 with the following paragraph:

-- if no, determine ~~determined~~ if U and A (and because of the equation  $U=1-A$ , also U) converges to a constant value, (e.g., per operator preference ~~[[ - ]]~~ and to save simulation time, ~~[[or]]~~ if U and A are changing so little after simulating an additional link, or are already adequate enough to not warrant further simulation), by convergence to a constant value, it is meant that the availability remains substantially the same after an additional simulation including an additional link;  
(10) At 60, if A converges to a constant ~~convergence~~, end at 58; --